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MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Chicago, Ill.

Technical information: (312) 353-1880 BLSInfoChicago@bls.gov [www.bls.gov/regions/midwest](http://www.bls.gov/regions/midwest)

Media contact: (312) 353-1138

## **Consumer Price Index, Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington — November 2020**

### **Area prices were down 0.4 percent over the past two months, up 1.7 percent from a year ago**

Prices in the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), decreased 0.4 percent for the two months ending in November 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Jason Palmer noted that the energy index fell 7.9 percent and the food index decreased 0.2 percent in the September to November period. The all items less food and energy index increased 0.1 percent. Among the indexes within the all items less food and energy category, prices were higher for household furnishings and operations. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bi-monthly changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U increased 1.7 percent. (See [table A.](#)) Food prices rose 3.0 percent over the year while energy prices fell 10.9 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.4 percent over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

### **Food**

Food prices were down 0.2 percent for the two months ending in November. Prices for food at home (groceries) decreased 0.5 percent, and prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) advanced 0.2 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 3.0 percent. Prices for food at home were up 2.2 percent since a year ago, and prices for food away from home rose 4.2 percent.

### **Energy**

The energy index declined 7.9 percent for the two months ending in November. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for electricity (-12.1 percent). Prices for utility (piped) gas service declined 0.5 percent, and prices for gasoline decreased 8.0 percent for the same period.

Energy prices fell 10.9 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-25.5 percent). Prices paid for electricity increased 10.1 percent, and prices for utility (piped) gas service rose 8.8 percent during the past year.

### **All items less food and energy**

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.1 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for household furnishings and operations (2.7 percent) and motor vehicle insurance (5.7 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-4.2 percent) and medical care (-0.8 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 2.4 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (2.3 percent) and household furnishings and operations (8.3 percent).

**Table A. Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI, CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted**

Month	2018		2019		2020	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
January.....	0.3		0.4	1.4	0.6	3.0
March .....	0.5		1.4	2.3	-0.3	1.2
May.....	1.0		1.0	2.3	-0.1	0.0
July .....	0.3		0.3	2.2	-0.1	-0.3
September.....	0.3		-0.2	1.7	2.1	1.9
November.....	-1.2	1.3	-0.2	2.8	-0.4	1.7

**The January 2021 Consumer Price Index for Minneapolis is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, February 10, 2021.**

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on November 2020 Consumer Price Index Data**

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in November was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed.

While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at [www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm](http://www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm).

### **Technical Note**

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measures of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total U.S. population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total U.S. population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date; for most of the CPI-U the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. An increase of 7 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 107.000. Alternatively, that relationship can also be expressed as the price of a base period market basket of goods and services rising from \$100 to \$107. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/).

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI, Core Based Statistical Area** covered in this release is comprised of Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, LeSueur, Mille Lacs, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Washington, and Wright Counties in Minnesota; and Pierce and St. Croix Counties in Wisconsin.

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**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Sep. 2020	Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020	Nov. 2019	Sep. 2020	Oct. 2020
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	256.280	-	255.362	1.7	-0.4	-
All items (1967=100) .....	805.368	-	802.482	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	294.918	-	294.407	3.0	-0.2	-
Food .....	283.658	-	283.121	3.0	-0.2	-
Food at home .....	252.487	255.867	251.277	2.2	-0.5	-1.8
Cereals and bakery products .....	276.343	-	266.374	-1.1	-3.6	-
Meats, poultry, fish and eggs .....	276.183	-	277.364	5.7	0.4	-
Dairy and related products .....	264.724	-	273.475	-1.7	3.3	-
Fruits and vegetables .....	352.259	-	345.288	2.2	-2.0	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1) .....	156.493	-	157.567	1.9	0.7	-
Other food at home .....	201.020	-	199.620	2.7	-0.7	-
Food away from home .....	328.766	-	329.436	4.2	0.2	-
Alcoholic beverages .....	391.679	-	391.679	2.6	0.0	-
Housing .....	246.285	-	245.966	3.5	-0.1	-
Shelter .....	290.367	290.933	290.412	2.3	0.0	-0.2
Rent of primary residence(2) .....	300.048	300.815	301.284	3.4	0.4	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3) .....	308.383	309.345	308.845	3.9	0.1	-0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2)(3) .....	308.383	309.345	308.845	3.9	0.1	-0.2
Fuels and utilities .....	226.297	-	212.298	7.2	-6.2	-
Household energy .....	203.242	187.916	187.157	8.7	-7.9	-0.4
Energy services(2) .....	207.566	191.407	190.325	9.6	-8.3	-0.6
Electricity(2) .....	293.544	263.698	258.169	10.1	-12.1	-2.1
Utility (piped) gas service(2) .....	132.874	129.165	132.268	8.8	-0.5	2.4
Household furnishings and operations .....	127.593	-	130.983	8.3	2.7	-
Apparel .....	142.491	-	136.547	2.6	-4.2	-
Transportation .....	189.804	-	189.120	-5.6	-0.4	-
Private transportation .....	180.796	-	179.004	-3.6	-1.0	-
New and used motor vehicles(4) .....	93.893	-	94.833	4.0	1.0	-
New vehicles(1) .....	157.016	-	158.335	0.6	0.8	-
Used cars and trucks(1) .....	302.944	-	302.613	12.9	-0.1	-
Motor fuel .....	170.469	165.172	157.126	-25.3	-7.8	-4.9
Gasoline (all types) .....	170.683	165.227	157.067	-25.5	-8.0	-4.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular(5) .....	170.471	164.816	156.385	-25.9	-8.3	-5.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(5)(6) .....	177.798	172.823	165.055	-23.0	-7.2	-4.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium(5) .....	217.007	212.984	206.742	-20.9	-4.7	-2.9
Motor vehicle insurance(1) .....	465.057	-	491.546	5.9	5.7	-
Medical care .....	593.138	-	588.623	3.0	-0.8	-
Recreation(4) .....	132.760	-	133.251	1.2	0.4	-
Education and communication(4) .....	139.054	-	138.615	0.8	-0.3	-
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1) ..	1,127.579	-	1,127.579	3.5	0.0	-
Other goods and services .....	396.550	-	396.600	3.5	0.0	-
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	256.280	-	255.362	1.7	-0.4	-
Commodities .....	190.200	-	189.047	0.6	-0.6	-
Commodities less food and beverages .....	145.012	-	143.748	-0.8	-0.9	-
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	189.342	-	183.365	-4.5	-3.2	-
Durables .....	106.525	-	108.549	3.8	1.9	-
Services .....	315.141	-	314.462	2.4	-0.2	-

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Sep. 2020	Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020	Nov. 2019	Sep. 2020	Oct. 2020
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	241.158	-	240.391	1.6	-0.3	-
All items less shelter .....	242.734	-	241.403	1.5	-0.5	-
Commodities less food .....	153.528	-	152.258	-0.7	-0.8	-
Nondurables .....	238.296	-	234.526	-0.6	-1.6	-
Nondurables less food .....	202.653	-	196.820	-3.9	-2.9	-
Services less rent of shelter(3) .....	356.736	-	355.056	2.5	-0.5	-
Services less medical care services .....	290.041	-	289.597	2.2	-0.2	-
Energy .....	188.681	178.455	173.827	-10.9	-7.9	-2.6
All items less energy .....	266.784	-	266.943	2.5	0.1	-
All items less food and energy .....	264.385	-	264.643	2.4	0.1	-

**Footnotes**

(1) Index on an April 1978=100 base.

(2) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(3) Index on a December 1982=100 base.

(4) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(5) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(6) Index on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.

Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.